

**Abstract**

A system are described in the field of automated packaging, relating to the inspection of packages (packaged product) in a production line. In particular, the invention addresses

5 a number of problems with inspection systems of the prior art. One embodiment described provides a capacitor sensing inspection system (3) comprising a pair of capacitors (28, 29). The first capacitor (28) in use having a reference package (32) as a dielectric and the second capacitor (29) in use having a package (10) to be measured as a dielectric. The system has a measurement circuit (33) for providing a first indication

10 when the capacitance of the first capacitor (28) is substantially greater than the capacitance of the second capacitor (29) and a second indication when the capacitance of the first capacitor (28) is substantially less than the capacitance of the second capacitor (29), the first and second indications being indicative of differences between the reference package (32) and the package (10) to be measured. The system further

15 comprises a potentiometer (54) having a variable position for adjusting a balance point of the measurement.